

HHS AP English Literature & Composition Summer Reading Assignment

Objective: One of the greatest accomplishments of an AP English program is the navigation of challenging texts. **This assignment is due on your first scheduled day of English, whether it's an A or B day and is worth a SIGNIFICANT portion of 1st Quarter's grade. Students who cannot meet this expectation will most likely have difficulty succeeding in an AP class and may wish to consider transferring to another English class.**

****Students will be graded on completeness of each part of the assignment, clarity of communication, & the degree of higher-level thinking displayed throughout.****

READING ASSIGNMENT: *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky (ISBN 978-1-59308-081-5 is recommended; this can be found at any Barnes and Noble bookstore) *Crime and Punishment* is one of the most used books on the AP test in the open-ended essay section—having this book under your belt before starting the class will act as a foundation for other texts we read this year.

Please complete the following activities while reading this book

- I. Pre-reading:** Build background knowledge. Research the author. Read as much as you can about the work itself prior to reading it. Check Sparknotes or Shmoop to get a basic idea of the plot and themes. If you have an “introduction” section in your book, we recommend that you read it. Take notes on the highlights of what you learn. Bring your notes with you the first day of class. YES, they will be collected.
- II. Read the novel & annotate while reading.** In other words, dialogue with the text. Imagine the text as a person. As you read, write notes in the margins or on sticky notes as to what you would say to the text if it were a real person. Ask questions, make observations, infer, determine the important points, etc. I suggest that you purchase your own copies that you can really make your own by highlighting & making notes in the margins, etc. The more that you write on a text, the more you understand it!
- III. AP Literature Study Guide (aka Major Works Data Sheet): (see attachment)**
Fill this out as COMPLETELY as you can **AS** you read—not after. Filling it out as you go will help you understand what is going on, the differences in characters, etc.
- IV. Write THREE critical analysis essays on the novel.**
Prompts for each essay are given below. Requirements for **each** essay are as follows: MLA format, around two-three pages; typed & double-spaced; Times New Roman, 12 font.
 1. “Choose a character from (*Crime & Punishment*) who responds in some significant way to justice or injustice. Then write a well-developed essay in which you analyze the character's understanding of justice, the degree to which

the character's search for justice is successful, and the significance of this search for the work as a whole" (Open-ended question, AP English Lit. exam, 2011).

2. "Morally ambiguous characters – characters whose behavior discourages readers from identifying them as purely evil or purely good – are at the heart of many works of literature. Choose a novel or play (*Crime and Punishment*) in which a morally ambiguous character plays a pivotal role. Then write an essay in which you explain how the character can be viewed as morally ambiguous and why his or her moral ambiguity is significant to the work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summary." (Open-ended question, AP English Lit. exam, 2002).
3. "Choose a distinguished novel or play (*Crime and Punishment*) in which some of the most significant events are mental or psychological; for example, awakenings, discoveries, changes in consciousness. In a well-organized essay, describe how the author manages to give these internal events the sense of excitement, suspense, and climax usually associated with external action. Do not merely summarize the plot." (Open-ended, AP English Lit. exam, 1988).

AP Literature and Composition:

Name:

Major Works Data Sheet

<p>Title: <i>Crime and Punishment</i></p> <p>Author: Fyodor Dostoevsky</p> <p>Date of Publication: _____</p> <p>Genre: Psychological Drama</p>	<p>Biographical information about the author:</p>
<p>Historical information about the period of publication:</p>	<p>Characteristics of the genre:</p> <p>In a psychological thriller, usually a movie or a book, the emphasis is not on the plot but rather on the psychology of its characters. Like thrillers, the danger to the protagonist is emphasized, but in the particular genre of psychological thrillers, suspense stems less from a physical threat but rather from a mental one. The protagonist perseveres against the antagonist often because of his or her mental qualities. Psychological thrillers usually involve "tightly-plotted narratives, clever red herrings, and a certain element of surprise," according to Psychology Today.</p>
<p>Plot Summary:</p>	

Describe the author's style:	Examples of LITERARY DEVICES that demonstrates style:
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Memorable Quotations (at least 5 quotes)

Quotation	Significance – So what?

Characters			
Name	Role in the story	Significance	Adjectives
Raskolnikov (Rodia)			
Sofya (Sonia)			
Dunya (Dunia)			
Svidrigailov (Arkady)			
Razumikhim (Dimitri)			
Katerina Marmeladov			
Porfiry Petrovich			
Marmeladov (Semion)			
Plucheria Raskolnikov			
Peter Luzhin			
Aliona			
Lizaveta			
Zosmiov			

Setting	Significance of the opening scene:	
	Significance of the ending/closing scene	
Symbols/Motifs		
	Guiding Questions	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are certain individuals “great”? If so, are these “great” individuals “above the law”? • Does society produce criminals, or are criminals born? • Can murder ever be justified for the common good? • Are all criminals redeemable? Can all sinners atone for their sins? • How can society best deal with criminals? • How can human beings effectively cope with a guilty conscience? 	
Possible Themes and Text Stance (that’s the WHY of the author)		